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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hideo HOSHUYAMA

Group Art Unit: 2624

Application No.: 10/733,264

Examiner: T. TSAI

Filed: December 12, 2003

Docket No.: 118019

For: IMAGE-PROCESSING DEVICE, ELECTRONIC CAMERA, IMAGE-PROCESSING PROGRAM, AND IMAGE-PROCESSING METHOD

APPLICANT'S SEPARATE RECORD OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

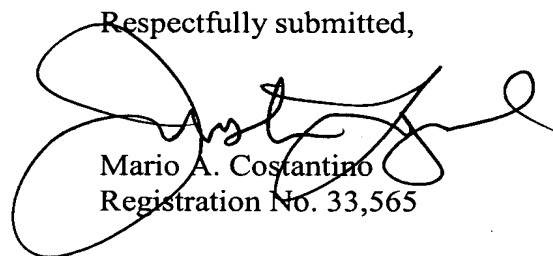
Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Tsai during the November 21, 2008 personal interview. In addition to the remarks in the Request for Reconsideration filed November 25, 2008, the following is Applicant's separate record of the personal interview.

In the Interview Summary mailed November 28, 2008 the Examiner asserts that it is not clear from the claims when the image is divided. However, as discussed during the personal interview, independent claim 1 recites dividing image data (i.e., the data of an image that comprises a plurality of pixels). Image data cannot be divided unless the electronic device has first captured it. Therefore, the image data is necessarily divided after capture, otherwise there would be no data to divide. As discussed during the interview, Hirai does not disclose dividing captured image data. Rather, Hirai merely discloses dividing an uncaptured

scene as it is viewed through a viewing structure. Therefore, Applicant's independent claims 1, 6 and 9 are patentable over Hirai for at least this reason.

Further, the Examiner asserts in the Interview Summary that any small region of an image inherently has a plurality of pixels. Although it may be true that a captured processed image has a plurality of pixels, the scene illustrated in Fig. 4B of Hirai is not a captured image. Therefore, Hirai does not disclose an image information generating part for dividing an image data to be processed into a plurality of small areas, said small areas each consisting of a plurality of pixels, and for generating, for each of said small areas, image information indicating a characteristic of the image data, as recited in independent claims 1 and 6, and similarly recited in independent claim 9. Therefore, independent claims 1, 6 and 9, and dependent claims 2, 4 and 7 are patentable over Hirai. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:JTL/emd

Date: December 9, 2008

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